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**THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
Awards \$25,000 in Kimelman Grants to Help Childcare Centers  
Meet New Regulations**

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) is pleased to announce the award of \$22,178 in Kimelman Grants to 14 of the Territory's non-government supported licensed childcare centers. Eight grants were awarded on St. Croix, four on St. Thomas and two on St. John. The grants ranged from \$700 to \$2500. An additional grant of \$2,800 will be given to the American Red Cross to provide pediatric CPR and First Aid training for approximately 35 childcare providers.

The Kimelman Grants for Quality in Early Childhood Education were created by the Kimelman family in January 2009 in celebration of the 88<sup>th</sup> birthday of CFVI's founding donor, Ambassador Henry L. Kimelman. The primary purpose of this year's Kimelman grants is to assist child care centers with efforts to meet the new rules and regulations recently issued by the Department of Human Services. The grant to the American Red Cross will provide training required by these new rules and regulations. Trainings will take place at the Red Cross centers on St. Croix (next to Caribe Home Center) and St. Thomas (Nisky Shopping Center) on November 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:30am.

Some of the Kimelman grants included awards to schools to pay for staff members to get their CDA (Child Development Associate) training certificates, also a requirement under the new rules and regulations. Grants were also given to help schools and centers purchase educational materials such as curricula, developmentally appropriate manipulatives, musical instruments and outdoor play equipment.

An evaluation committee of early childhood professionals and parents conducted a rigorous review of proposals from the centers. Site visits and interviews with center directors were conducted with many of the applicants. In making decisions, the committee looked for proposals that would help centers comply with the broad range of new guidelines, while evaluating fiscal responsibility to ensure efficiency of funding.

"We are extremely pleased that so many of the applicants met the criteria for the Kimelman Grants," said CFVI's president, Dee Baecher-Brown. "Assisting the professionals at these centers is another way for the Foundation to continue improving the quality of early child care in the U.S. Virgin Islands."

Kimelman Grants for Quality in Early Childhood Education are an initiative of **The Family Connection** (TFC), which is the Community Foundation's program to enhance the early childhood environment in the USVI.

The Family Connection has an ambitious agenda that includes strategies to strengthen child care and early education in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Some of TFC's initiatives include professional training, teacher and parent education, child care center accreditation and advocacy to improve public policies that affect the quality of child care. TFC is working to improve school readiness through family involvement in an effort to increase early literacy.

Mrs. Charlotte Kimelman and Ambassador Henry L. Kimelman founded CFVI in December 1990 with a gift of \$540,000, and provided additional donations of nearly \$2 million throughout the years. When the Ambassador passed away in 2009, the Kimelman family provided a gift of more than \$1 million to establish the Kimelman Family Fund at CFVI.

CFVI now has more than 110 named funds that provide scholarships, grants and supporting programs in the USVI. Assets of the Foundation are in excess of \$7 million. CFVI also produces the annual KIDS COUNT report on the status of children and families in the USVI. Individuals or businesses wishing to know more about CFVI should call 774-6031, or visit the CFVI website at [www.cfvi.net](http://www.cfvi.net).